

## Claims

- [c1] 1. A restaurant method, said restaurant method comprising the steps of:
- providing a dining area defined by a restaurant building;
  - providing a dining table disposed in said dining area;
  - providing a plurality of seats disposed around said dining table;
  - providing a stir-frying apparatus disposed on said dining table;
  - providing raw foods;
  - providing additive ingredients;
- wherein said stir-frying apparatus includes a container having an open top for holding foods, a stirring device installed inside said container for stirring foods disposed inside said container, a power-drive assembly operationally coupled with said stirring device for driving said stirring device through repeating stirring cycles, and a heating device for heating foods disposed inside said container;
- wherein diners are provided with options to select among said raw foods and said additive ingredients and to cook various dishes by themselves; and
- whereby each dish is individually cooked and customized

to diners preference.

- [c2] 2. A restaurant method as defined in claim 1, wherein said raw foods are pre-packed in bags that are adapted for individual dishes.
- [c3] 3. A restaurant method as defined in claim 1, wherein said additive ingredients are pre-packed in bags that are adapted for individual dishes.
- [c4] 4. A restaurant method as defined in claim 1, said restaurant method further including a step of providing a computer for storing various recipes, such that diners can cook various dishes by themselves based on said recipes.
- [c5] 5. A restaurant method as defined in claim 4, wherein said recipes include recipes adapted for weight-conscious diners.
- [c6] 6. A restaurant method as defined in claim 1, said restaurant method further including a step of providing a recipe brochure having various recipes, such that diners can cook various dishes by themselves based on said recipes in said recipe brochure.
- [c7] 7. A restaurant method as defined in claim 6, wherein said recipe brochure includes recipes adapted for

weight-conscious diners.

- [c8] 8. A restaurant method as defined in claim 1, wherein said heating device includes a bottom heating element installed underneath said container for heating foods from below and an over-head heating element installed at an upper position of said stir-frying apparatus for heating foods from above.
- [c9] 9. A restaurant method as defined in claim 8, wherein said stir-frying apparatus includes a lid for closing said open top of said container and a housing for heat insulation of said stir-frying apparatus and for adapting said stir-frying apparatus to stand on a flat surface, wherein said lid is hingedly installed at an upper position of said housing, and wherein said overhead heating element is installed on said lid.
- [c10] 10. A restaurant method as defined in claim 9, wherein said stir-frying apparatus includes a venting device having filter means disposed on said lid for cooking fume treatment.
- [c11] 11. A restaurant method as defined in claim 1, wherein said stir-frying apparatus includes a control device for automatically de-energizing said power-drive assembly near the end of each stirring cycle for a predetermined

dwelling period.

- [c12] 12. A restaurant method as defined in claim 11, wherein said control device includes a switch circuit for de-energizing and energizing said power-drive assembly and a timing circuit to determine said predetermined dwelling period.
- [c13] 13. A restaurant method as defined in claim 1, said restaurant method further including a step of providing a plurality of dining tables in said dining area and a plurality of stir-frying apparatuses and wherein each of said stir-frying apparatuses is disposed on each of said dining tables.
- [c14] 14. A restaurant method, said restaurant method comprising the steps of:  
providing a dining area defined by a restaurant building;  
providing a plurality of dining tables disposed in said dining area;  
providing a plurality of seats disposed around each of said dining tables;  
providing an counter having a counter top;  
providing a plurality of stir-frying apparatuses disposed on said counter top;  
providing raw foods;  
providing additive ingredients;

wherein each of said stir-frying apparatuses includes a container having an open top for holding foods, a stirring device installed inside said container for stirring foods disposed inside said container, a power-drive assembly operationally coupled with said stirring device for driving said stirring device through repeating stirring cycles, and a heating device for heating foods disposed inside said container;

wherein diners are provided with options to select among said raw foods and said additive ingredients and to cook various dishes by themselves; and

whereby each dish is individually cooked and customized to diners preference.

- [c15] 15. A restaurant, said restaurant comprising:  
a dining area defined by a restaurant building;  
a dining table disposed in said dining area;  
a plurality of seats disposed around said dining table;  
a stir-frying apparatus disposed on said dining table;  
raw foods;  
additive ingredients;  
wherein said stir-frying apparatus includes a container having an open top for holding foods, a stirring device installed inside said container for stirring foods disposed inside said container, a power-drive assembly operationally coupled with said stirring device for driving said

stirring device through repeating stirring cycles, and a heating device for heating foods disposed inside said container;

wherein diners are provided with options to select among said raw foods and said additive ingredients and to cook dishes by themselves; and

whereby each dish is individually cooked and customized to diners preference.

[c16] 16. A restaurant as defined in claim 15, wherein said raw foods are pre-packed in bags that are adapted for individual dishes.

[c17] 17. A restaurant as defined in claim 15, wherein said additive ingredients are pre-packed in bags that are adapted for individual dishes.

[c18] 18. A restaurant as defined in claim 15, said restaurant further including a computer for storing various recipes, such that diners can cook various dishes by themselves based on said recipes.

[c19] 19. A restaurant as defined in claim 18, wherein said recipes include recipes adapted for weight-conscious diners.

[c20] 20. A restaurant as defined in claim 15, said restaurant further including a recipe brochure having various

recipes, such that diners can cook various dishes by themselves based said recipes in said recipe brochure.

[c21] 21. A restaurant as defined in claim 20, wherein said recipe brochure includes recipes adapted for weight-conscious diners.

[c22] 22. A restaurant as defined in claim 15, wherein said stir-frying apparatus includes a bottom heating element installed underneath said container for heating foods from below and an over-head heating element disposed at an upper position of said stir-frying apparatus for heating foods from above.

[c23] 23. A restaurant as defined in claim 22, wherein said stir-frying apparatus includes a lid for closing said open top of said container and a housing for heat insulation of said stir-frying apparatus and for adapting said stir-frying apparatus to stand on a flat surface, wherein said lid is hingedly installed at an upper position of said housing, and wherein said overhead heating element is installed on said lid.

[c24] 24. A restaurant as defined in claim 23, wherein said stir-frying apparatus includes a venting device having filter means disposed on said lid for cooking fume treatment.

- [c25] 25. A restaurant as defined in claim 15, wherein said stir-frying apparatus includes a control device for automatically de-energizing said power-drive assembly near the end of each stirring cycle for a predetermined dwell period.
- [c26] 26. A restaurant as defined in claim 25, wherein said control device includes a switch circuit for de-energizing and energizing said power-drive assembly and a timing circuit to determine said predetermined dwell period.
- [c27] 27. A restaurant as defined in claim 15, said restaurant further including a plurality of dining tables in said dining area and a plurality of stir-frying apparatuses and wherein each of said stir-frying apparatuses is disposed on each of said dining tables.